To: Rotola, Joe[Rotola.Joe@epa.gov]; Carpenter, Angela[Carpenter.Angela@epa.gov]
From: Enck, Judith
Sent: Fri 4/15/2016 12:42:50 PM
Subject: Fwd: News Clips (PFOA)

See the New Hampshire numbers

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Region2 PAD News <Region2_PAD_News@epa.gov>
Date: April 15, 2016 at 7:55:15 AM EDT
To: "R2 EPA Region 2 (EPA Staff)" <R2_EPA_Region_2_EPA_Staff@epa.gov>
Subject: News Clips (PFOA)

Tests: Maple Syrup Not Affected by PFOA Contamination

By Mike Polhamus

Valley News

Thursday, April 14, 2016

A suspected carcinogen being found in hundreds of locations around Bennington County has not been detected in maple syrup produced in the area, Department of Environmental Conservation tests revealed Wednesday.

The toxicant PFOA has been found in sediment beneath several water bodies in the area, however, at concentrations of up to 2,400 parts per trillion. Results released Wednesday also showed dozens more residential wells containing the chemical at levels exceeding the state's advisory limit of 20 parts per trillion.

The state's 20 parts per trillion advisory limit is set for concentration levels in water, and does not apply to sediment.

The department still awaits results from about 100 soil samples in the North Bennington area, as well as from sites near 11 industrial locations around the state.

Officials say that although Walloomsac River sediment showed the highest concentrations of perfluorooctanoic acid, the fish in the river are still safe to eat. The pollution doesn't endanger the health of aquatic species, either, officials said. Experts say the most sensitive aquatic species aren't harmed by sediment containing less than 10 million parts per trillion, according to Danika Frisbie, the DEC's public information coordinator for the state's PFOA response.

State officials Wednesday collected fish from affected water bodies to test their tissue for PFOA as a precautionary measure, Frisbie said. She said the fish aren't expected to contain noteworthy PFOA levels because the toxin doesn't accumulate in species the way other pollutants do, such as the polychlorinated biphenyl polluting the Hoosic River and rendering fish from there unsafe to eat.

At least two ponds in the North Bennington area also contain PFOA in their sediment, according to test results released Wednesday, but state officials say it's not a risk to human health.

The state recently tested 63 private wells in Pownal, after a municipal water supply serving around 450 people was found to carry PFOA in concentrations exceeding the state's recommended limit. Only four of those 63 came back with PFOA concentrations above 20 parts per trillion. The highest concentration was 66 parts per trillion.

Samples from eight out of 10 streams and ponds in the Bennington area also recently came back positive for PFOA, as have wells serving over 100 households near North Bennington.

Monitoring wells surrounding the Bennington Landfill have also revealed contamination exceeding the state's advisory health limit of 20 parts per trillion.

The pollution is thought to have originated from three factories formerly owned by the same Vermont entrepreneur, John Ransom Cook. Cook started Warren Wire in Pownal and Chemfab in Bennington, which he later moved to North Bennington.

Officials have not yet determined by what precise route the chemical left the factories and found its way into Vermonters' drinking water and surface waters. But at other PFOA-contaminated sites in the United States, the chemical was introduced into the environment through factories' smokestacks, according to DuPont documents released in the course of a successful lawsuit against that company over PFOA pollution in West Virginia.

Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics purchased Chemfab in 2000 and closed the plant in North Bennington two years later.

Environmental Conservation Commissioner Alyssa Schuren said her department will require Saint-Gobain to remediate any sites polluted by PFOA released from the Chemfab plants. The company is reviewing hundreds of boxes of documents from the former factory in search of information that might assist the state in its investigation, officials say.

PFOA is believed to cause cancer and disrupt endocrine systems, affecting the liver, kidneys, testes and bladder. It is also thought to cause hypertension and high cholesterol.

Blood testing is available for residents whose water was contaminated, as is clean drinking water.

The state has asked Saint-Gobain to pay to extend municipal drinking water lines to Bennington and North Bennington households whose wells have been contaminated by PFOA, Frisbie said, but the company has not yet responded.

The state will hold informational meetings on PFOA, its effects and where it's been found Monday evening in Bennington and Tuesday evening in Pownal.

Patch

Merrimack Plant Samples: PFOA Up to 5,800 PPT

NH DES has released new data; is requesting Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics to test soil at schools, playgrounds.

Merrimack, NH

By Tony Schinella

April 14, 2016

MERRIMACK, NH - The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services released "preliminary sample results for groundwater and soil samples" on April 14, 2016, that were taken at the Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics facility in Merrimack and found perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) concentrations ranging from 280 parts per trillion (ppt) to 5,800 ppt in groundwater, according to a press statement.

Soil samples, according to Jim Martin of the NH DES, ranged from non-detect to 30 parts per billion (ppb).

"NHDES compared these results against residential soil screening levels developed by the U.S. EPA Region 4 of 16,000 ppb and the state of Vermont, which currently has a residential soil screening level of 0.3 mg/kg (equivalent to 300 ppb)," he said. "The soil sample levels of PFOA detected at the Saint-Gobain facility are well below either of these screening values."

The department, however, was requesting Saint-Gobain to begin testing soil at "properties with sensitive populations," which would include schools, playgrounds, and daycare centers, within a 1-mile radius of the facility. Eight locations have been identified in Merrimack and Litchfield for testing, according to Martin.

"(The) NH DES has reviewed and commented on a draft work scope, and testing is anticipated to begin late next week," he stated. "The study area will be expanded if the testing results indicate the presence of elevated PFOA or other PFCs in the soil."

The study will be completed by Saint-Gobain's environmental consultants, under the direction of a NH-licensed professional engineer/geologist. The department will also be overseeing the testing.

For more information related to the investigation, visit des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pfoa.htm.

###